



WOMEN ASSISTED IN WGFS

Overview

Displacement: The humanitarian impacts of the violence across Gumuruk and Lekuangole counties have been severe, with an estimated 32,000 IDPs reported to have been displaced to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Attacks against boreholes, health facilities, humanitarian premises, schools and markets were reported in Gumuruk Town. Due to severe destruction, affected communities are unable to access life-saving services which is posing a serious threat to their lives and welfare.

Assessment in Akobo and Nyirol counties. From 18 to 20 January, an inter-agency team conducted a needs assessment of people affected by intercommunal fighting in Walgak, Diror, Buong, and Barmach of Akobo West in Akobo County and in Waat of Nyirol County. The team reported over 37,600 people displaced in the assessed areas, mostly women and children who fled the recent intercommunal fighting in the region and fear returning home due to the presence of attackers in their villages. At least 29 people were killed, 22 others were wounded during the attacks and 16 children and women were reportedly abducted. Over 3,300 cattle were stolen, and 39 houses were burned in Wunbil boma in Nyrol County.

Jonglei/Greater Pibor Administrative Area Protection Response

Human impact

Protection risks are alarming: Women and children make up the majority of the displaced communities who have fled with little to nothing. Many have reportedly been without access to food for several days while continue to sleep in the open due to lack of adequate shelters. The protection crisis is exacerbated by trauma and continuous fear of conflict as well as worries over the whereabouts of family members, due to family separations. Unaccompanied and separated children as well as survivors of gender-based violence have been identified and there are increasing reports of women and children being abducted, allegedly 1,301 children (650 boys, 651 girls) and 505 women have been abducted during the fighting. Since then, **100 abductees have been released into Government care (43 girls, 33 boys, 24 women).** This includes 88 abductees (38 girls, 29 boys, 21 women) who were recovered in Jonglei and the 12 (5 girls, 4 boys, 3 women) who were recovered from GPAA, Lekuangole County, Kongor Payam. Jonglei leadership has identified several locations of more abductees, but they are yet to recover them as the authorities are still engaging with the abductors to hand over the rest of the survivors to the State Government.

Urgent multi-sectoral needs: With the limited resources and capacities, it is important to have a coordinated multi-sectoral response due to the different needs and service gaps identified. Protection needs, such as those of unaccompanied and separated children, GBV survivors, and people with limited mobility and other specific needs require tailored protection services and assistance, including family reunification and MHPSS. Assistance needs for food, health, water and sanitation, shelter and for core relief items are urgent. It remains critically important to respond to these needs in line with humanitarian principles.

Protection response highlights

Coordinated through the Protection Cluster, the limited response capacity was maximized to address growing protection needs. Additional resources are needed to respond to this growing emergency and proactively prepare for the further evolution of the conflict and the anticipated increase during the drought seasons. PC partners are responding to the situation through protection monitoring, protection desks, outreach, counselling, identification and referrals of PSN and protection cases, material support, including core relief/shelter, case management and GBV awareness.

Focus on Persons with Specific Needs (PSN)

- UNHCR dispatched additional supplies, including dignity kits and core relief items to Pibor to provide support with partners to some 5,000 persons, targeting 1,000 households which have at least one person with special needs.
- UNHCR, and its partners HDC, INTERSOS and Voice for Peace distributed NFIs to 520 PSN in Pibor. Items include kitchen set, blanket, soap bar, plastic mat, bucket, clothes. (See photo on the right).

Mobile protection response

- The Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism team supports static partners in conducting protection monitoring and rapid protection assessments to inform multi-sectoral response; Additionally, UNHCR's mobile protection team from the Bor field office has with its protection partners distributed 552 dignity kits and conducted FGDs with the affected population on their specific protection concerns.

Jonglei/Greater Pibor Administrative Area Protection Response

Response highlights by Area of Responsibility of the Protection Cluster

CHILD PROTECTION

- Case Management and Family Tracing and Reunification services are ongoing (UNICEF, PI, GREDO, MGCSW).
- 4 tents erected by UNICEF and NP at the ICC Interim Care Centers (ICC).
- Abductees total caseload 88 (28 boys, 39 girls, 21 women) airlifted from Jonglei. 12 (5 girls, 4 boys, 3 women) were recovered from GPAA, Lekuangole County, Kongor Payam.
- 68-caseload reunified have received NFIs provided by UNICEF. The NFIs included dignity kit for the women, sleeping mat, washing soap, mosquito nets, blankets and buckets.
- Oxfam constructed 1 stance for bathing shelter and the construction of a temporary latrine is ongoing.
- Plan International and UNICEF provided food assistance for abductees at the Interim Care Centers (ICC).
- UNICEF and GREDO provided recreational items for children including NFIs (sleeping mats, dignity kit for women, washing soaps, blankets, buckets, mosquito nets).
- 5PLW and 2U5 identified out of the 68 first arrival in the ICC and are receiving treatment, Malnutrition assessment conducted in the ICC.



CHILD PROTECTIN CASE WORKER WITH UNACCOMPANIED CHILD

GENEDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- 3,198 beneficiaries (1,248 women, 820 men, 410 boys and 720 girls) were reached with GBV awareness.
- 218 women and girls benefited from deterrent patrolling and protective presence for civilians in high-risk locations for GBV. Community-Based Protection Committee composed of 30 members (14 women and 16 men) was established among IDPs from Likuangole and is led by persons with disabilities.
- 700 dignity kits distributed to women and adolescent girls including survivors. Additionally, 200 women and girls including survivors were referred for dignity kit provision.
- 100 GBV survivors (62 women, 28 girls, 2 men and 8 boys) benefited from lifesaving multisectoral GBV response services through GBV case management provided by GBV partners.
- 192 beneficiaries (134 women and 58 men) were provided with individual and group psychosocial support and other related services. 27 of the beneficiaries were persons with disabilities
- 200 women and 150 girls accessed services in Women and Girls Friendly Space. GBV partner also provided a tent to support GBV responders for service provision.
- 150 Women's Group members conducted round table discussion on harmful gender norms including early and forced marriage, and its consequence. In addition, 121 women, men, girls, boys, and persons with disabilities were engaged in Focus Group Discussion to identify challenges faced by women and girls with disability to access GBV response services.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS RAISING ON GBV

Jonglei/Greater Pibor Administrative Area Protection Response

Gaps and Constraints

- Limited resources for partners remain an impediment for humanitarian response. Destruction during the fighting of humanitarian services as well as concerns over safety and security for humanitarian staff and assets after recent incidents have also impacted the emergency response.
- Bad road conditions hamper the humanitarian response and increases vulnerabilities of the displaced communities.
- Key gaps in protection services are MHPSS due to the high levels of trauma the newly displaced, case management and multi-sectoral support for GBV and child protection interventions and services.
- The mobile protection response and identification of PSNs needs to be further enhanced, in scope and reach, to inform the response as the conflict continues and people flee, and to ensure immediate emergency protection assistance to the most vulnerable.

Recommendations

Decentralized humanitarian assistance: While local authorities in Pibor are encouraging IDPs to return to their places of origin, it is important that the humanitarian response identifies and provides critical and life saving services including protection to those who have been left behind including elderly, persons with disabilities and people with limited mobility. Return should only be supported by the humanitarian community where it is voluntary, safe and dignified.

Protection of civilians remains a fundamental concern in view of the likelihood of further violence, and the UNMISS peacekeeping force should increase its political engagement with the parties to the conflict and strengthen the protection of civilians in potential conflict areas.

Protection Situation: The response continues to need a strong focus on the protection needs of the displaced and other conflict-affected people. This needs to be reflected at all levels, including in strategic and programmatic decision-making, as well as in resource allocation decisions.



UNHCR DISTRIBUTING CORE RELIEF ITEMS INCL. DIGNITY KITS IN PIBOR